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PATENT APPLICATIONS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
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GROUP 2300

In Re the Application of: )
)
KLUG )
)
Serial No.: 07/975,905 )
)
Filed: November 12, 1992 )
)
Atty. File No.: 2355-1-1 )
)
For: "REMOTE MULTIPLE-USER )
EDITING SYSTEM AND )
METHOD" )

Group Art Unit: 2307

Examiner: P. Wang

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN KLUG UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231 ON THIS 11th DAY OF May, 1994

SHERIDAN, ROSS & McINTOSH

BY: Janice Messer

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, John Klug, declare as follows:

I am the sole inventor of the above-referenced patent application.

I have read and understand the above-identified patent application, including the pending claims, a copy of which claims is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

I have obtained and used a product marketed by Group Technologies, Inc. under the name of "ASPECTS". I believe that the "ASPECTS" product is covered by one or more of the pending claims of the above-identified patent application.

I have read the following articles attached hereto as Exhibit 2 and I am familiar with the subject matter thereof:

1. "Plugging the Gap Between E-Mail and Video Conferencing", The New York Times, June 23, 1991.

2. "A Whole New PC Aspect", USA Today, October 21, 1991.

3. "Mac Applications Prove Windows is No Substitute for the Real Thing", INFOWORLD, August 6, 1990, p. 98.

4. "Groupware Grows Up" MacUser, June 1991, pp. 207-211.

It is my opinion that the need addressed by and the commercial success of the "ASPECTS" products as described or referred to in the above-identified articles is due to features in the product which are covered by one or more of the pending claims of the above-identified patent application.

I have read the following product literature attached hereto as Exhibit 3:

1. Shareview 300 product literature, ©1993, 1994.

2. Intel Pro-Share Personal Conferencing product literature, ©1994.

Based solely on such product literature, it is my opinion that the Shareview 300 and Intel Pro-Share products appear to be covered of the pending claims of the above-identified patent application. Further, it is my opinion that the need addressed by each of these products is met due to features in the products which are covered by one or more of the pending claims of the above-identified patent application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false

statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1.001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or patent issued thereon.

Dated this 5 day of May, 1994.

By: John Klug
John Klug

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EXHIBIT 1

PENDING CLAIMS

1. A computer file editing system for a plurality of users at different remote locations, comprising:

a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, each of said plurality of personal computers including computer file review means, at least one of said personal computers being designated host computer for given file editing operations and having multi-tasking processing means for coordinating the execution of said file editing operations comprising edits of less than the entirety of a given computer file inputted by at least the user of one of said personal computers, and for coordinating the transfer of data corresponding with and limited to said file editing operations from said host computer to the others of said plurality of personal computers whereby said file editing operations and said corresponding limited data transfer are performed in a predetermined manner by said host computer; and

interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said host computer with the others of said plurality of personal computers to permit transmission of electrical signals corresponding with said file editing operations therebetween;

wherein said plurality of users are permitted to concurrently view said given computer file and, subject to practical system limitations, said computer file review means, multi-tasking processing means and interconnecting means operate so that said file editing operations and said corresponding limited data transfer occur on a substantially real-time basis relative to said edit inputs to permit said plurality of users at said different

remote locations to review with their respective review means said edits made to said given computer file substantially contemporaneously with the corresponding input of said edits and execution of said file editing operations.

2. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

at least two voice communication means for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each other user.

3. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system for transferring said data digitally between said host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers.

4. A computer file editing system according to Claim 2, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network which comprises said voice communication means and means for contemporaneously transferring said data between said host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers and transmitting said audio signals among the users.

5. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and each electrically interconnected between one of said personal c ters and an analog communications network, said analog com nications network operable for

transferring said data between at least two of said personal computers; and

wherein each of said personal computers includes data compression/decompression means for compressing said data to be transferred before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications network.

6. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means is an integrated services digital network.

7. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, wherein said interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and each electrically interconnected between one of said personal computers and an analog communications network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between at least two of said personal computers; and

wherein each of said modems includes data compression/ decompression means for compressing said data to be transferred before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications network.

8. A computer file editing system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of modems, each having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means and each electrically interconnected between one of said personal computers and an analog communications network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between at least two of said personal computers; and

data compression/decompression means for compressing said data to be transferred before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing the data when received from the analog communications network.

9. A system for contemporaneously editing a given computer file by any of a plurality of users, comprising:

a plurality of personal computers, one for each of the users, each of said personal computers including means for inputting edits to said given computer file and means for displaying said given computer file, at least one of said personal computers being designated host computer and having multi-tasking processing means for coordinating the execution of file editing operations comprising edits of less than the entirety of said given computer file from the inputting means of any of said personal computers and the transfer of data corresponding with and limited to said file editing operations from said at least one of said personal computers to the others of said plurality of personal computers; and

interconnecting means comprising a non-dedicated digital communications system for transferring said data digitally between said host computer and said others of said plurality of personal computers;

wherein said plurality of users are permitted to concurrently view said given computer file and, subject to practical system limitations, said inputting means, display means, multi-tasking processing means and interconnecting means operate so that said file editing operations and said corresponding limited data transfer occur on a substantially real-time basis relative to said edit inputs to permit said plurality of users at their respective remote locations to review with their respective display means said

given computer file reflecting said edits made thereto substantially contemporaneously with the corresponding input of said edits and file editing operations.

10. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 9, wherein the coordinating means is operatively interconnected with the inputting means and displaying means of each of said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers through said interconnecting means and comprises means for sequentially polling the input from each of the inputting means, means for executing any editing operation input by one of said users on a file, and means for sending said data from said host computer to all of the displaying means as the editing operation is input by said one of said users.

11. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of voice communication means, in one to one correspondence with said plurality of personal computers, for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice to each other user.

12. Cancelled.

13. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 11, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital network which comprises said voice communication means and means for contemporaneously transferring said data between said host computer and said remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers and transmitting said audio signals among the users.

14. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein:

said interconnecting means comprises:

a plurality of converting means, each electrically interconnected with one of said personal computers, for converting digital signals from each of said personal computers to analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals, and

an analog communications network for electrically interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring said analog signals to and from the converting means, wherein

each of said personal computers further includes data compression/decompression means for compressing data to be transferred before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications network.

15. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein:

a first plurality of said personal computers are electrically interconnected in a first local area network and at least a second plurality of said personal computers are interconnected in at least a second local area network; and

said interconnecting means includes means for interconnecting said first local area network with said at least second local area network for allowing transfer of said data to and from the personal computers in said first and said at least second local area networks.

16. Cancelled.

17. A system for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 10, wherein the coordinating means includes means for excluding input from at least one selected inputting means from the sequential polling.

18. A method for contemporaneously editing a given computer file from any of a plurality of personal computers situated at different remote locations, wherein at least one of said personal computers has multi-tasking capabilities and one of said personal computers is designated as host computer, comprising the steps of:

electrically interconnecting the host computer with the others of said plurality of personal computers over a communications network;

inputting editing instructions which constitute edits to less than the entire given computer file into one of said personal computers;

receiving, at the host computer, the editing instructions which have been input;

editing the file in accordance with the instructions; and

transferring data corresponding with the file editing instructions from the host computer to the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers over the communications network;

wherein said plurality of users are permitted to concurrently view said given computer file and, subject to practical system limitations, said editing step and said transferring step occur on a substantially real-time basis relative to said edit input so as to permit said data to be reviewed at each personal computer in said different remote locations substantially contemporaneously with the corresponding input of edits and execution of file editing operations.

19. A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 18 further comprising the step of establishing voice communications over a telephone network among users of each of the personal computers before inputting editing instructions.

20. A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 18, wherein the step of electrically interconnecting comprises electrically interconnecting the host computer with the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers over a non-dedicated digital network.

21. A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 18, wherein the step of electrically interconnecting comprises electrically interconnecting the host computer with the remaining ones of said plurality of personal computers over a communications network including:

a plurality of converting means, each electrically interconnected with one of the personal computers for converting digital signals from said personal computers to analog signals and converting analog signals to digital signals; and

an analog communications network for interconnecting the plurality of converting means and transferring the analog signals to and from the converting means.

22. A method for contemporaneously editing a file according to Claim 19, wherein the step of establishing voice communications comprises establishing voice communications over the same network as said communications network wherein said communications network

is capable of contemporaneous transmission of data and voice signals.

23. An interactive editing system for a plurality of users at different remote locations for permitting any of the users to orally provide file editing instructions comprising edits to less than an entire given computer file, and for permitting substantially contemporaneous viewing of the editing, relative to the edit inputs, by all of the users, comprising:

voice communication means, in one-to-one correspondence with the users, for transmitting audio signals representative of any user's voice and said orally provided file editing instructions to each of the others of said plurality of users;

a personal computer, having multi-tasking processing means and a display, for use by one of the users to input and execute the editing instructions orally provided by the others of said plurality of users;

a plurality of remote terminals, one for use by each of the remaining ones of said plurality of users and each having a display; and

interconnecting means for electrically interconnecting said personal computer with each of said remote terminals and for transferring data corresponding with the file editing instructions, comprising edits to less than an entire given computer file, between said personal computer and said remote terminals;

wherein said plurality of users are permitted to concurrently view said given computer file and, subject to practical system limitations, said file editing instruction execution and said corresponding data transfer occur on a substantially real-time

basis relative to said edit inputs to permit said plurality of users at said different remote locations to view edits made to a given computer file substantially contemporaneously with said edit inputs and the execution of said file editing instructions.

24. Cancelled.

25. An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein said interconnecting means is a non-dedicated digital communications system for transferring said data digitally between said personal computer and said remote terminals.

26. An interactive editing system according to Claim 23, wherein:

said interconnecting means comprises a plurality of modems, one of said modems having digital-to-analog conversion means and analog-to-digital conversion means, said one of said modems electrically interconnected between said personal computer and an analog communications network and each of the remaining one of said plurality of modems containing analog-to-digital conversion means and electrically interconnected between a corresponding one of said remote terminals and said analog communications network, said analog communications network operable for transferring said data between said personal computer and said remote terminals, and

said one of said modems includes data compression/ decompression means for compressing said data to be transferred between said personal computer and said remote terminals before said data is sent over the analog communications network and for decompressing said data when received from the analog

communications network and each of said remaining ones of said plurality of modems includes data decompression means for decompressing said data when received from the analog communications network.